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# ON SEPARABLE POLYNOMIALS IN SKEW POLYNOMIAL RINGS

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Throughout this paper,  $B$  will mean a ring with 1,  $\rho$  an automorphism of  $B$ ,  $D$  a  $\rho$ -derivation of  $B$  (i.e. an additive endomorphism such that  $D(ab) = D(a)\rho(b) + aD(b)$  for all  $a, b \in B$ ). Let  $R = B[X; \rho, D]$  be the skew polynomial ring in which the multiplication is given by  $aX = X\rho(a) + D(a)$  ( $a \in B$ ). In particular, we set  $B[X; \rho] = B[X; \rho, 0]$  and  $B[X; D] = B[X; 1, D]$ . By  $R_{(0)}$ , we denote the set of all monic polynomials  $g$  in  $R$  with  $gR = Rg$ . A polynomial  $g$  in  $R_{(0)}$  is called to be separable if  $R/gR$  is a separable extension of  $B$ . Let  $f$  be a polynomial in  $B[X; \rho]_{(0)}$  (resp.  $B[X; D]_{(0)}$ ) such that the coefficients are fixed by  $\rho$ . As was shown in [3], if  $f'$ , the derivative of  $f$ , is invertible in  $R$  modulo  $fR$ , then  $f$  is separable in  $R$ . In this case,  $f$  is called a  $\tilde{\rho}$ -separable (resp.  $\tilde{D}$ -separable) polynomial. In this paper, we shall give some sufficient conditions for a separable polynomial to be  $\tilde{\rho}$ -separable (resp.  $\tilde{D}$ -separable). The study contains some generalizations of the results of [3].

We shall use the following conventions:

$Z$  = the center of  $B$ ,  $C(A)$  = the center of a ring  $A$ .

$$B^0 = \{a \in B \mid \rho(a) = a\}, \quad B^D = \{a \in B \mid D(a) = 0\}.$$

$u_r$  = the right multiplication effected by  $u \in B$ .

$I_u$  = the inner derivation effected by  $u \in B$ ;

$$I_u(a) = au - ua.$$

$\rho^*: B[X; \rho] \rightarrow B[X; \rho]$  is the ring automorphism defined by  $\rho^*(\sum_i X^i d_i) = \sum_i X^i \rho(d_i)$ .

$D^*: B[X; D] \rightarrow B[X; D]$  is the inner derivation defined by  $D^*(\sum_i X^i d_i) = \sum_i X^i D(d_i)$ .

1. In this section, we assume that  $R = B[X; \rho]$  and  $f$  is in  $R_{(0)} \cap B^0[X]$  with  $\deg f = m$ . First, we shall define the discriminant of  $f$ . As was shown in [3, Remark 1.3],  $f$  is in  $C(B^0)[X]$ . The free  $C(B^0)$ -module  $C(B^0)[X]/fC(B^0)[X]$  has a basis  $\{1, x, \dots, x^{m-1}\}$ , where  $x = X + fC(B^0)[X]$ . Let  $\pi_i$  be the projection on to the coefficients of  $x^i$ . The trace map  $t$  is defined by  $t(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \pi_i(zx^i)$  ( $z \in C(B^0)[X]/fC(B^0)[X]$ ). Then the discriminant  $\delta(f)$  of  $f$  is defined by  $\delta(f) = \det ||t(x^k x^l)||$  ( $0 \leq k, l \leq m-1$ ). By [4, Theorem 2.1] and [3, Theorem 2.1],  $f$  is  $\tilde{\rho}$ -separable if and only if  $\delta(f)$  is invertible in  $B$ .

Lemma 1.1.  $a\delta(f) = \delta(f)\rho^{m(m-1)}(a)$  for all  $a \in B$ .

Proof. For  $k \geq 0$ , we put  $x^k = x^{m-1}b_{m-1} + x^{m-2}b_{m-2} + \dots + db_1 + b_0$  ( $b_i \in C(B^0)$ ). Then, we have  $x^k \equiv x^{m-1}b_{m-1} + \dots + xb_1 + b_0 \pmod{fR}$ . Since  $ax^k =$

$x^k \rho^k(a)$  ( $a \in B$ ), we have  $ab_i = b_i \rho^{k-i}(a)$  and so,  
 $a\pi_i(x^k) = \pi_i(x^k) \rho^{k-i}(a)$  ( $0 \leq i \leq m-1$ ). Since  $t(x^v) = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \pi_i(x^{i+v})$ , we obtain  $at(x^v) = t(x^v) \rho^v(a)$ . Then  
 the assertion is now easy.

In the rest of this section, we assume that  $f = x^m + x^{m-1}a_{m-1} + \dots + xa_1 + a_0$  is a separable polynomial. Then by [3, Theorem A], there exists  $y \in R$  with  $\deg y < m$  such that  $\rho^{m-1}(a)y = ya$  ( $a \in B$ ) and  $\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} y_j y x^j \equiv 1 \pmod{fR}$ , where  $y_j = x^{m-j-1} + x^{m-j-2}a_{m-1} + \dots + xa_{j+2} + a_{j+1}$ . Under the above hypothesis and notations, we shall prove the following Lemma.

Lemma 1.2. Assume that  $au = u\rho^n(a)$  (or  $\rho^n(a)u = ua$ ) ( $a \in B$ ) with an element  $u \in B$  and a positive integer  $n$ . Then  $f'(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \rho^{*k}(y)u) = (\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \rho^{*k}(y)uf') \equiv nu \pmod{fR}$ .

Proof. Since  $u \in B$ ,  $au = u\rho^n(a)$  and  $uy = yu$ , we have  $yu = uy\rho^{*n}(y) = \rho^{*n}(y)u$ . Hence  $\rho^*(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \rho^{*k}(y) \cdot u) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \rho^{*k}(y)u$ . Then, noting  $y_j \in C(B^0)[X]$  ([3, Lemma 1.2]) and  $f' = \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} y_j y x^j$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} nu &\equiv \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} y_j (\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \rho^{*k}(y)u) x^j \\ &= f'(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \rho^{*k}(y)u) = (\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \rho^{*k}(y)u)f' \pmod{fR}. \end{aligned}$$

Corollary 1.3.  $(f' \sum_{i=0}^{m-i-1} \rho^{*k}(y))a_i = (\sum_{i=0}^{m-i-1} \rho^{*k}(y)f')a_i \equiv (m-i)a_i \pmod{fR}$ , for  $0 \leq i \leq m-1$ .

Proof. Since  $f \in R_{(0)} \cap B^0[X]$ , we have  $aa_i = a_i \rho^{m-1}(a)$  ( $a \in B$ ) and  $\rho(a_i) = a_i$  by [3, Lemma 1.3 a)].

Now, we shall prove the following theorem which contains a generalization of [3, Theorem 2.2] and a partially generalization of [5, Theorem 2.7].

Theorem 1.4. Let  $f = x^m + x^{m-1}a_{m-1} + \dots + xa_1 + a_0$  be in  $R_{(0)} \cap B^0[X]$ . Assume that  $f$  is separable. If there holds one the following conditions (1) - (6), then  $f$  is  $\tilde{\rho}$ -separable.

- (1) There exists a regular element  $u$  in  $B$  and a positive integer  $n$  which is invertible in  $B$  such that  $au = u\rho^n(a)$  (or  $ua = \rho^n(a)u$ ) ( $a \in B$ ).
- (2)  $m(m-1)$  is invertible in  $B$ .
- (3) Both  $a_0$  and  $a_1$  are regular elements in  $B$ .
- (4)  $a_{m-1}$  is a regular element in  $B$ .
- (5)  $\rho|_Z = 1_Z$  and  $m-1$  is invertible in  $B$ .
- (5')  $\rho|_Z = 1_Z$  and  $m$  is in  $\text{rad } B$ , the Jacobson radical of  $B$ .

- (6)  $\rho|_Z = 1_Z$  and  $a_1$  is in  $\text{rad } B$ .

Moreover, if (2) is satisfied then every separable polynomial in  $R_{(0)} \cap B^0[X]$  is  $\tilde{\rho}$ -separable.

Proof. Case (1). Let  $v = u\rho(u) \dots \rho^{n-1}(u)$ . Since  $au = u\rho^n(a)$  ( $a \in B$ ) and  $\rho^n(u) = u$ , we have  $a\rho^v(u) = \rho^v(u)\rho^n(a)$  and  $\rho(v) = v$ . Since  $v$  is regular element in  $B$ , so is in  $R/fR$ . Hence by Lemma 1.2,

$f'$  is invertible in  $R$  modulo  $fR$ . Thus,  $f$  is  $\tilde{\rho}$ -separable.

Case (2) and (3). By [1, Lemma 1], there exist  $\alpha, \beta \in B$  such that  $a_0\alpha + a_1\beta = 1$ . By Corollary 1.3, there exist  $z_1, z_2 \in R$  such that  $ma_0 \equiv f'z_1a_0$  and  $(m-1)a_1 \equiv f'z_2a_1 \pmod{fR}$ . Therefore, if both  $a_0$  and  $a_1$  are regular elements in  $B$ ,  $f'$  is invertible in  $R$  modulo  $fR$ . Next, if  $m(m-1)$  is invertible in  $B$ , then  $f'$  is invertible in  $R$  modulo  $fR$  since

$$m(m-1) \equiv f'((m-1)z_1a_0\alpha + mz_2a_1\beta) \pmod{fR}.$$

Moreover,  $a\delta(f) = \delta(f)\rho^{m(m-1)}(a)$  ( $a \in B$ ) by Lemma 1.1, and  $\delta(f)$  is invertible in  $B$ . Therefore, every separable polynomial in  $R_{(0)} \bigwedge^{B^0} [X]$  is  $\tilde{\rho}$ -separable by case (1).

Case (4). It is obvious by Corollary 1.3.

Case (5), (5') and (6). Obviously, (5') implies (5). We put here  $y = X^{m-1}c_{m-1} + \dots + Xc_1 + c_0$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} y_j y^j X^j &= \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} y_j X^j \rho^{*j}(y) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \left( \sum_{v=j}^{m-1} x^v a_{v+1} \right) \rho^{*j}(y) \\ &= a_1 y + \sum_{v=1}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^v \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} x^{v+\mu} a_{v+1} \rho^j(c_\mu). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the constant terms modulo  $fR$  of the both sides, we have

$$1 = a_1 c_0 + \sum_{v=1}^{m-1} \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^v b_{v+\mu} a_{v+1} \rho^j(c_\mu),$$

where  $b_k$  is the constant term of  $x^k$  modulo  $fR$ .

Since  $ab_{v+\mu} = b_{v+\mu}\rho^{v+\mu}(a)$ ,  $aa_{v+1} = a_{v+1}\rho^{m-v-1}(a)$  and  $\rho^{m-1+\mu}(a)c_\mu = c_\mu a (a \in B)$ , we have  $b_{v+\mu}a_{v+1}\rho^j(c_\mu) \in Z$ . Since  $b_{v+\mu}, a_{v+1} \in B^\rho$  and  $\rho|Z = 1_Z$ , we have  $b_{v+\mu}a_{v+1}\rho^j(c_\mu) = b_{v+\mu}a_{v+1}c_\mu$ . Then we obtain

$$1 = a_1c_0 + \sum_{v=1}^{m-1} \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} (v+1)b_{v+\mu}a_{v+1}c_\mu.$$

It is easily verified that  $b_{v+\mu} = 0$  ( $v+\mu \leq m-1$ ) and  $b_{v+\mu} \in a_0B$  ( $v+\mu \leq m$ ). Since  $(v+1)a_0a_{v+1} = ma_0a_{v+1} - (m - (v+1))a_{v+1}a_0$ , it follows from Corollary 1.3 that there exists  $z \in R$  such that  $1 \equiv a_1c_0 + f'z \pmod{fR}$ .

Now, if  $a_1$  is in  $\text{rad } B$ , then  $f'$  is invertible in  $R$  modulo  $fR$ .

Next, if  $m-1$  is invertible in  $B$ , then  $m-1 \equiv (m-1)a_1c_0 + (m-1)f'z \pmod{fR}$ . Thus,  $f'$  is invertible in  $R$  modulo  $fR$  by Corollary 1.3 again. This completes the proof.

As an immediate consequence of Theorem 1.4, we have the following

Corollary 1.5. Assume that  $B$  is an algebra over a field of characteristic zero. Then every separable polynomial which is in  $R_{(0)} \cap B^0[X]$  is  $\tilde{\rho}$ -separable.

Corresponding to [2, Theorem], we have the following

Corollary 1.6. Assume that  $B$  is of prime char-

acteristic  $p > 0$  and  $\rho|_Z = 1_Z$ . Then a monic polynomial  $g = X^p + Xb_1 + b_0$  in  $R_{(0)}$  is separable if and only if  $b_1$  is invertible in  $B$ .

Proof. First, we consider the case  $p = 2$ . Then by [3, Lemma 1.3],  $gR = Rg$  implies  $\rho(b_0) = b_0$ . Hence, if  $g$  is separable then it is in  $B^0[X]$  by [3, Proposition 3.1]. Since  $ab_1 = b_1\rho(a)$  ( $a \in B$ ), we have  $b_1^2 = b_1\rho(b_1)$ . Hence, if  $b_1$  is invertible in  $B$ , then  $b_1 = \rho(b_1)$ , and so  $g \in B^0[X]$ . Thus, the assertion follows from Theorem 1.4. Next, we consider the case  $p > 2$ . Then by [3, Remark 1.4],  $gR = Rg$  implies  $g \in B^0[X]$ . Thus, the assertion follows from Theorem 1.4.

2. In this section, we assume that  $R = B[X; D]$ . The following theorem is a sharpening of [3, Theorems 2.7 and 4.4].

Theorem 2.1. Assume that  $(b_n)_r D^n + (b_{n-1})_r D^{n-1} + \dots + (b_1)_r D = I_{b_0}$  with some  $b_i \in B^D$ . If  $b_1$  is invertible in  $B$ , then every separable polynomial in  $R$  is  $\tilde{D}$ -separable.

Proof. Let  $f = X^m + X^{m-1}a_{m-1} + \dots + Xa_1 + a_0$  be separable in  $R$ . Then by [3, Theorem A] there exists  $y \in R$  with  $\deg y < m$  such that  $ay = ya$  ( $a \in B$ ) and  $\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} y_j y X^j \equiv 1 \pmod{fR}$ . Since  $b_i \in B^D$ , we have



$$(b_n)_r D^{*n} + (b_{n-1})_r D^{*(n-1)} + \dots + (b_1)_r D^* = I_{b_0}^*.$$

Then

$$0 = yb_0 - b_0y = \sum_{i=1}^n D^{*i}(y)b_i = D^*(\sum_{i=1}^n D^{*(n-1)}(y)b_i).$$

We put here  $u = \sum_{i=1}^n D^{*(i-1)}(y)b_i$ . Then  $Xu = uX$  and

$Y_j u = uY_j$  ([3, Lemma 1.2]). Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} b_1 &\equiv \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} Y_j (\sum_{i=1}^n D^{*(i-1)}(y)b_i) X^j \\ &\equiv \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} Y_j u X^j = f'u = uf' \pmod{fR}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $f$  is  $\tilde{D}$ -separable by [3, Theorem 2.1].

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